

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AEC-11 CIAE-00 H-03 INR-11 IO-14

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SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T USNATO 4144

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT MBFR: SPC JULY 29 DISCUSSION OF FLANK SECURITY

REF: A. USNATO 3929

B. USNATO 4122

SUMMARY: NETHERLANDS REP AT JULY 29 SPC DEFENDED DUTCH PROPOSAL, WHICH SEEKS TO RESOLVE WESTERN MILITARY DISTRICTS QUESTION AS WELL AS FLANK ISSUE. GREEK REP THOUGHT THIS MIGHT DELAY ALLIED PRESENTATION ON THE FLANK ISSUE TO THE OTHER SIDE. BELGIAN REP PROPOSED A GENERAL, "CHAPEAU" SENTENCE ON REFRAINING FROM INFRINGEMENT OF MBFR AGREEMENT, WHICH WOULD ENABLE BELGIUM TO DROP FROM ITS FORMULATION ON FLANK SECURITY THE WORDS "DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY," LANGUAGE WHICH U.S. SECRET

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WANTS ELIMINATED. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE ON LATEST BELGIAN PROPOSAL, AS WELL AS ON IS FRAMEWORK PAPER ON FLANK SECURITY (REF B), FOR AUGUST 5 SPC. END SUMMARY.

1. SPC RETURNED TO FLANK SECURITY ISSUE JULY 29.

2. NETHERLANDS REP SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WAS NOT PER SE WEDDED TO COMBINATION OF NON-CIRCUMVENTION AND FLANK SECURITY, AS IN DUTCH PROPOSAL, BUT DOES NOT SEE HOW TO SOLVE PROBLEM OTHERWISE: NETHERLANDS IS AFRAID ANY OTHER SOLUTION ON FLANK SECURITY MIGHT FORGET THE MUCH MORE IMPORTANT ISSUE OF THE WESTERN MILITARY DISTRICTS.

3. GREEK REP SAID HE WAS NOT OPPOSED TO COMBINATION OF NON-CIRCUMVENTION AND FLANK ISSUES. HOWEVER, THE COMBINATION COULD LEAD TO A DELAY IN GETTING SOMETHING ON THE FLANK ISSUE TO THE OTHER SIDE. THE DUTCH PROPOSAL MAKES CLEAR THE NETHERLANDS IS IN NO HURRY. TURKISH REP SAID HE THOUGHT NON-CIRCUMVENTION ELEMENT SHOULD BE IN CLAUSE ON FLANK SECURITY.

4. BELGIAN REP NOTED THAT THE NETHERLANDS AND BELGIAN FORMULATIONS WERE FOR "EVERYONE" SINCE THEY COVERED BOTH FLANKS AND WMD'S, WHILE GREEK FORMULATION WAS ONLY FOR FLANKS. HE ALSO SAID THAT BELGIUM LIKED IDEA OF GENERAL NON-CIRCUMVENTION CLAUSE, AND THAT WITH SUCH A CLAUSE, BELGIUM COULD DROP "DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY FROM ITS FORMULATION, WHICH WOULD THUS MAKE IT ACCEPTABLE TO U.S. BELGIUM THOUGHT A SEPARATE NON-CIRCUMVENTION CLAUSE MORE LOGICAL.

5. U.S. REP SAID U.S. AGREED WITH BELGIUM ON DESIRABILITY OF SEPARATE NON-CIRCUMVENTION CLAUSE TO HANDLE THIS PROBLEM. HOWEVER, NON-CIRCUMVENTION WAS A BROAD ISSUE, AND U.S. NOT YET IN A POSITION TO COMMENT ON GENERAL NON-CIRCUMVENTION CLAUSE. GREEK REP SAID AHG NEEDS GUIDANCE BY NOVEMBER 1, AND HOPED U.S. WOULD HAVE SOMETHING ON NON-CIRCUMVENTION BY THEN. HE ALSO ASKED IF SPC SAW THE ISSUE AS GIVING AHG GUIDANCE TO PRESENT "THE ALLIED POSITION" ON FLANK SECURITY TO THE OTHER SIDE. DUTCH REP SAID HE DID NOT SEE AHG PRESENTING ANYTHING THAT DID NOT COVER WMD'S.

6. BELGIAN REP SAID HE THOUGH SPC REALLY NOT FAR FROM CONSENSUS. HE THEN PROPOSED A SIMPLE, "CHAPEAU" SENTENCE, WHICH WOULD APPEAR EARLY IN TREATY, AND WHICH WOULD ENABLE BELGIUM TO DROP "DIRECTLY SECRET

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OR INDIRECTLY": "THE PARTIES UNDERTAKE TO REFRAIN FROM ANY ACTION INFRINGING THE SPIRIT OF THIS AGREEMENT AS WELL AS THE LETTER." GREEK AND NORWEGIAN REPS THOUGHT THIS A POOR SUBSTITUTE FOR "DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY." ITALY SUGGESTED INSERTING, AFTER "ACTION" THE PHRASE, E.G., THROUGH THE REDEPLOYMENT OF THEIR FORCES". DUTCH AND BELGIAN REPS LIKED THE ITALIAN SUGGESTION, DUTCH REP CLAIMING THAT THIS BROUGHT IT CLOSE TO DUTCH PROPOSAL.

7. UK REP SAID HIS AUTHORITIES FAVORED DROPPING "THEIR ADDED PRESNECE" FROM BELGIAN PROPOSAL, AND REPLACING IT WITH "THEIR PERMANENT REDEPLOYMENT." BELGIAN REP OPPOSED THIS, ON GROUNDS THAT "ADDED PRESENCE" MADE IT EASIER FOR NATO, IN THAT IT WOULD PROBABLY NOT RAISE UNACCEPTABLE SOVIET DEMANDS FOR RECIPROCITY

AS WOULD "PERMANENT REDEPLOYMENT." "ADDED PRESENCE" WOULD ALSO BE MORE USEFUL TO FLANKS. NETHERLANDS REP SAID THAT NATO APPROACH SHOULD NOT MAKE IT SO EASY FOR NATO THAT WE DON'T GET ANY BENEFITS FROM THE OTHER SIDE.

8. SPC WILL NEXT CONSIDER FLANK SECURITY ON AUGUST 5.

9. COMMENT: SPC DEBATE ON FLANK SECURITY IS DEVELOPING FAVORABLY FROM U.S. POINT OF VIEW. U.S. HAS DEMONSTRATED FLEXIBILITY IN ACCEPTING MOST OF BELGIAN PROPOSAL, AND THERE IS AN IMPRESSION SPC NOW MAKING SOME PROGRESS TOWARD MEETING FLANK REQUIREMENTS. DISCUSSION HAS NO OVERTONES OF U.S-TURKISH CONFRONTATION, IN VIEW OF THE VARIOUS POSITIONS IN PLAY. ONLY HINT OF CONFRONTATION AT THIS MEETING, IN FACT, WAS BETWEEN GREEKS AND DUTCH. MISSION SEES LATEST BELGIAN PROPOSAL ON "CHAPEAU," AND ITALIAN AMENDMENT, AS AFFORDING FURTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR MOVEMENT ON THIS ISSUE, AND HOPES WASHINGTON CAN REACT FAVORABLY TO THEM. MISSION ALSO REQUIRES WASHINGTON COMMENT ON IS PAPER PER REF B.
PRENDERGAST

SECRET

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MBFR VIENNA
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